

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for call conferencing, comprising:  
detecting a first access to a conference bridge  
operable to support a conference call;  
5 receiving a pass code from the first access; and  
securing the conference bridge using the pass code  
received from the first access by allowing a second access  
to the conference bridge, the second access based at least  
partially on the pass code from the first access.  
10
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the pass code  
comprises a first pass code; and  
further comprising allowing the second access to  
continue based at least partially on at least one of the  
15 first pass code and a second pass code.
3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising  
receiying the second pass code from the first access.
- 20 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein receiving the pass  
code comprises:  
prompting a participant to identify whether the  
conference bridge is to be secured; and  
receiving the pass code in response to the participant  
25 indicating that the conference bridge is to be secured.
5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the second access  
is based at least partially on the pass code from the first  
access when the conference bridge is secured.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising identifying the first access as being associated with a chairperson of the conference call; and

wherein receiving the pass code comprises receiving  
5 the pass code from the first access in response to determining that the first access is associated with the chairperson.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein allowing the  
10 second access to the conference bridge comprises:

prompting a participant for the pass code;

receiving an identification of one or more depressed  
numeric buttons on a communication device associated with  
the participant; and

15 determining whether the one or more identified numeric  
buttons represents a numeric sequence associated with the  
pass code.

8. An apparatus for call conferencing, comprising:  
one or more ports operable to receive at least one  
channel of a plurality of channels for a conference call;  
and

5 one or more processors collectively operable to:  
detect a first access to a conference bridge  
operable to support the conference call;  
receive a pass code from the first access; and  
secure the conference bridge using the pass code  
10 received from the first access by allowing a second access  
to the conference bridge, the second access based at least  
partially on the pass code from the first access.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the pass code  
15 comprises a first pass code; and

the one or more processors are further collectively  
operable to allow the second access to continue based at  
least partially on at least one of the first pass code and  
a second pass code.

20

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the one or more  
processors are further collectively operable to receive the  
second pass code from the first access.

25

11. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the one or more processors are collectively operable to receive the pass code by:

prompting a participant to identify whether the  
5 conference bridge is to be secured; and

receiving the pass code in response to the participant indicating that the conference bridge is to be secured.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the second  
10 access is based at least partially on the pass code from the first access when the conference bridge is secured.

13. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the one or more processors are further collectively operable to  
15 authenticate the first and second accesses.

14. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the pass code comprises a numeric code.

20

15. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium and operable to be executed by a processor, the computer program comprising computer readable program code for:

- 5       detecting a first access to a conference bridge operable to support a conference call;  
          receiving a pass code from the first access; and  
          securing the conference bridge using the pass code received from the first access by allowing a second access  
10       to the conference bridge, the second access based at least partially on the pass code from the first access.

16. The computer program of Claim 15, wherein the pass code comprises a first pass code; and

- 15       further comprising computer readable program code for allowing the second access to continue based at least partially on at least one of the first pass code and a second pass code.

- 20       17. The computer program of Claim 16, further comprising computer readable program code for receiving the second pass code from the first access.

18. The computer program of Claim 15, wherein the  
25       computer readable program code for receiving the pass code comprises computer readable program code for:

- prompting a participant to identify whether the conference bridge is to be secured; and  
          receiving the pass code in response to the participant  
30       indicating that the conference bridge is to be secured.

19. The computer program of Claim 18, wherein the second access is based at least partially on the pass code from the first access when the conference bridge is secured.

5

20. The computer program of Claim 15, further comprising computer readable program code for identifying the first access as being associated with a chairperson of the conference call.

10

21. The computer program of Claim 15, wherein the computer readable program code for allowing the second access to the conference bridge comprises computer readable program code for:

15

prompting a participant for the pass code;  
receiving an identification of one or more depressed numeric buttons on a communication device associated with the participant; and

determining whether the one or more identified numeric  
20 buttons represents a numeric sequence associated with the pass code.